

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 0527Z 160643Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AF-10 /085 W
-----104377 160701Z /11
R 151555Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7002

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 5272

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, DA, GW
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR MANSHEL'S CALLS ON FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS

REF: COPENHAGEN 4896

SUMMARY: DURING AMBASSADOR MANSHEL'S CALLS AUGUST 11 ON FOREIGN MINISTRY PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY EIGIL JORGENSEN AND POLITICAL DIVISION CHIEF BIERRING, BOTH OFFICIALS STRESSED THE EXCELLENT STATE OF US-DANISH RELATIONS AND MADE SUBSTANTIVE COMMENTS ON SEVERAL ISSUES, INCLUDING AFRICA, EC MONETARY COOPERATION, EAST-WEST RELATIONS, AND WEST GERMAN ECONOMY. END SUMMARY.

1. ON AUGUST 11 AMBASSADOR MANSHEL MADE SUCCESSIVE CALLS ON FOREIGN MINISTRY PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY EIGIL JORGENSEN AND CHIEF OF POLITICAL DIVISION OLE BIERRING.
 2. JORGENSEN USED THE OCCASION TO STRESS THE COINCIDENCE OF DANISH AND U.S. VIEWS ON MOST MAJOR INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AND TO EMPHASIZE THE SPECIAL AND FRIENDLY TIES NOW BINDING THE TWO COUNTRIES.
 3. IN PARTICULAR JORGENSEN NOTED DANISH SUPPORT FOR U.S. EFFORTS IN AFRICA, REFERRING SPECIFICALLY TO US.-BRITISH INITIATIVES IN RHODESIA. AS FOR EAST-WEST DEVELOPMENTS, JORGENSEN, LIKE AMBASSADOR
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- DYVIG LAST WEEK (REFTEL), COMMENTED THAT DENMARK AND WEST GERMANY ARE SOMEWHAT MORE CAUTIOUS THAN THE U.S. BECAUSE OF PROXIMITY TO THE SOVIET UNION BUT NOT BECAUSE OF DIFFERING CONVICTIONS.
4. AS OTHER DANISH OFFICIALS HAVE DONE SINCE LAST SPRING'S EC "SUMMIT" MEETING IN COPENHAGEN, JORGENSEN STRESSED THE EUROPEAN EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE GREATER MONETARY COOPERATION ARE IN NO WAY

MEANT TO BE HOSTILE TO THE U.S. AS SOME JOURNALISTS REPORTED. THE EC, HE SAID, INTENDS TO PURSUE THESE EFFORTS IN CONSULTATION WITH THE U.S. ASKED FOR HIS EVALUATION OF THE STATUS OF THE BREMEN MONETARY PROPOSALS, JORGENSEN REPLIED THAT THE ANTICIPATED NO MOVEMENT UNTIL BRITISH ELECTIONS HAVE BEEN HELD LATER THIS YEAR.

5. JORGENSEN STRESSED THAT THE DANISH GOVERNMENT WELCOMED THE U.S. INITIATIVE PRODDING GERMAN LEADERS TO TAKE ADDITIONAL MEASURES TO STIMULATE THE GERMAN ECONOMY, SINCE THIS WAS VIEWED AS ENTIRELY IN DENMARK'S INTEREST. HE WAS SKEPTICAL, HOWEVER, OF HELMUT SCHMIDT'S COMMITMENT TO SUCH MEASURES AS WELL AS TO HIS ABILITY TO OBTAIN POLITICAL BACKING FOR THEM.

6. ON THE SUBJECT OF U.S.-DANISH BILATERAL RELATIONS, JORGENSEN PERCEIVED A GREAT IMPROVEMENT SINCE THE LOW POINT OF THE VIETNAM ERA. JORGENSEN TOOK PAINS BOTH TO EXCUSE AND JUSTIFY THE DANISH PRIME MINISTER'S PUBLIC CRITICISM OF THE U.S. AT THAT TIME AND TO GIVE ASSURANCES THAT THIS WAS A CLOSED CHAPER. TO ILLUSTRATE THE IMPORTANCE THAT DENMARK ATTACHES TO ITS CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE U.S., JORGENSEN OBSERVED THAT THERE ARE MANY AMBASSADORS IN COPENHAGEN BUT ONLY FEW, AMONG THEM THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR, WHO HAVE IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO TOP DANISH OFFICIALS. HE INVITED AMBASSADOR MANSHEL TO "TELEPHONE AND COME TO MY OFFICE AT ANY TIME WITHOUT FORMALITY."

7. JORGENSEN'S FRIENDLINESS AND OPENNESS WERE ALSO APPARENT IN A FRANK DISCUSSION OF CURRENT DANISH DOMESTIC POLITICS. (SEE SEPTTEL.)
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8. AMBASSADOR MANSHEL'S TALK WITH AMBASSADOR BIERRING WAS SIMILAR IN SUBSTANCE AND TENOR TO THAT WITH PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY JORGENSEN. LIKE JORGENSEN, BIERRING EMPHASIZED THE EXCELLENT STATE OF U.S.-DANISH RELATIONS AND WAS CAREFUL TO EXPLAIN AWAY THE STRAINS THAT DEVELOPED DURING THE VIETNAM PERIOD. NO SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS CURRENTLY EXIST BETWEEN THE U.S. AND DENMARK, HE SAID, AND EVEN THE NEUTRON BOMB NO LONGER REMAINS A SUBJECT OF CONTROVERSY. BIERRING EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE EXCELLENT EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BETWEEN THE DANISH AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS, PARTICULARLY NOTABLE DURING DENMARK'S EC PRESIDENCY, WOULD CONTINUE.

9. DISCUSSING AFRICA, BIERRING STATED THAT SINCE THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAD TAKEN OFFICE, HE HAD OBSERVED A GREAT AND POSITIVE CHANGE IN ATTITUDE OF AFRICAN LEADERS TOWARD THE UNITED STATES, A DEVELOPMENT HE ATTRIBUTED IN LARGE PART TO THE EFFORTS OF AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG. BIERRING WELCOMED THE EVOLUTION OF U.S.-AFRICAN POLICIES AND SAID SOMEWHAT RUEFULLY THAT IT COULD BE EMBARRASSING IN TERMS OF DOMESTIC POLITICS AND EC RELATIONS WITH AFRICA WERE THE U.S. TO "GET OUT AHEAD OF EUROPE" IN THE SUPPORT OF "PROGRESSIVE" ELEMENTS IN AFRICA.

10. TURNING TO THE EAST-WEST RELATIONS, BIERRING ECHOED BOTH EIGIL JORGENSEN AND DYVIG IN JUSTIFYING A DANISH APPROACH TO HUMAN RIGHTS THAT IS MORE CAUTIOUS THAN THAT PURSUED BY THE U.S. AT THIS POINT AMBASSADOR MANSHEL OBSERVED THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES ARE NOT AS SOME PERCEIVE SIMPLY A PLOY BY THE U.S. IN ITS RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER COUNTRIES BUT A DEEPLY FELT NATIONAL POSITION. TOUCHING ON THE DEFENSE ISSUE, BIERRING EMPHASIZED THAT A BROAD CONSENSUS ON DEFENSE NOW EXISTS IN DENMARK AND THAT WHATEVER ILLUSIONS DANES MAY HAVE ENTERTAINED ABOUT THE USSR HAVE NOW BEEN DISSIPATED.

1. COMMENT: FROM AMBASSADOR MANSHEL'S CONVERSATIONS WITH TOP DANISH OFFICIALS TO DATE, IT CLEARLY EMERGES THAT THE DANES ARE BENT NOT ONLY ON BEING COURTEOUS TO A NEW AMBASSADOR BUT ON CONFIDENTIAL

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MAINTAINING THE FRUITFUL BILATERAL EXCHANGE SO EVIDENT DURING DENMARK'S RECENT EC PRESIDENCY.
MANSHEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, AMBASSADORS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978COPENH05272
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780334-1193
Format: TEL
From: COPENHAGEN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780864/aaaacblp.tel
Line Count: 139
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c40e8663-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 COPENHAGEN 4896
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1740566
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR MANSHEL'S CALLS ON FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS
TAGS: PDIP, DA, GE, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c40e8663-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014